



REPLACEMENT SHEET
PATENT APPLICATION

S.N. #10/770,106

ART 3712

F.D. 01/22/04

DELORES R. COLLINS EXAMINER

IV. Specification

(a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.

Bingo Caddy

(b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.

Various U.S. patents have issued related to the use of devices for supporting Bingo cards/sheets and/or reading, writing, drawing and other activities:

1. U.S. Patent No. 3,773,154 (11/73) to Mitchell.
2. U.S. Patent No. 3,871,519 (03/75) to Groomes. This invention provided a case for carrying and storing Bingo equipment and consist of two circular portions hinged at the base.
3. U.S. Patent No. 3,921,983 (11/75) to Taylor.
4. U.S. Patent No. 4,500,091 (02/85) to Rovsek. This invention provides a Bingo game box with a cover and has flexible strips that overlay the game cards.
5. U.S. Patent No. 4,618,151 (10/86) to Fadner et al.
6. U.S. Patent No. 4,630,830 (12/86) to Gadd. This invention provides a Bingo card holder.
7. U.S. Patent No. 4,646,804 (03/87) to Damiano. This invention provides a handbag with pockets for carrying Bingo supplies.
8. U.S. Patent No. 4,761,008 (08/02/88) to Huggins. This invention provides a device for carrying and holding Bingo supplies and can be sealed with an attaching top to form a playing surface at an angle.

9. U.S. Patent No. 4,765,583 (08/88) to Tenner.
10. U.S. Patent No. 4,872,550 (10/89) to Stranges.
11. U.S. Patent No. 4,948,139 (08/14/90) to R. Heezel. This invention provided a case that expands to an enlarged playing area and has swinging doors to allow storage of markers.
12. U.S. Patent No. 5,028,048 (07/02/91) to Watson et al. This invention provided a game-carrying and playing device with a surface to support game cards and sides that position to offer an inclined playing surface.
13. U.S. Patent No. 5,054,783 (10/08/91) to Hull et al. This invention provides a device for storing and transporting Bingo supplies and a slanted fold-out playing surface that holds cards.
14. U.S. Patent No. 5,213,326 (05/25/93) to Rundell et al. This invention provides a Bingo sheet organizing device.

C. STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

This invention was not developed through any federally sponsored research and development, although federal installations could benefit from its use.

D. INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED
ON A COMPACT DISC

Not Applicable

E. BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the Invention

This invention relates to an improved, lightweight, affordable, portable device for assisting in the playing of Bingo and in providing ergonomic surfaces at a 15 degree slope for reading, writing, drawing, and other activities, secure interior storage wells, and exterior utility wells.

(2) Description of Related Art

Hull teaches a portable apparatus consisting of a top and a bottom hinged together to form a case that, when open, forms a slanted surface which is movable relative to the bottom portion of the case. The problem with Hull's apparatus is that the slant is not specifically 15%, the recommended ergonomic angle for reducing stress on the neck, back, and hands.

Hull teaches a handle for carrying the case and a fastener for securing the top to the bottom. However, the handle can cause injury and adds weight to the apparatus. The fastener functions only to secure the top and the bottom and is not functional to the apparatus.

The present invention provides an improved, lightweight, portable device that stores and transports supplies and personal items.

The present invention provides an ergonomic playing surface with a 15 degree slant that rests atop existing table tops or other flat surfaces and allows users to organize, view, and mark their playing cards/sheets,

books, keyboards, and calculators thus facilitating rapid play/use and promoting physical health.

This present invention reduces neck, back, arm, and hand strain.

This present invention provides convenient wells on the top of the playing surface to hold supplies and personal items during use.

The present invention is totally assembled and requires no additional assembly for use.

The present invention is lightweight for carrying, easy to use, simple to manufacture, and inexpensive.

The present invention can be used on trays attached to wheelchairs to provide an accessible playing surface.

The present invention has a lip for preventing papers and books from slipping off the surface.

The present invention has a lip to prevent the device from slipping off the flat surface on which it will rests. Said lip is available when the top and bottom are fastened with the specially designed overlapping lock.

The present invention has a lightweight handle that does not interfere with the utility of the invention and is safe.

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F. BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The Bingo Caddy is an improved, lightweight, portable, storage, organization, and functional device that creates an ergonomic surface at a 15 degree angle that is suitable for reading, writing, and drawing and is especially suitable for the playing of Bingo. The device consists of a hinged top and bottom with an offset latch and lightweight handle.

G. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE
DRAWINGS

The caddy consists of two molded pieces connected by a hinge 6 and secured with a springcatch latch 10 and 11 to make the device safe and easy to transport and simple to use. The molded one-piece top consists of one rectangular piece with a sloped flat surface portion 1, a rectangular flat utility portion that is parallel to the table or other flat surface on which it is designed to be used, with six cylindrical wells of various diameters (3 typical, 4 typical, and 5) designed to hold daubers, beverages, tokens, and personal items; two irregular rectangular side portions typical as pictured in Figure 2; a back rectangular portion onto which the handle 12 is attached, and a small rectangular front portion to hold paper or other items in place with an offset half of the lip to secure the caddy to a flat surface with the female part of a locking device 11 and a raised lip to secure papers, books, or other items in place on the flat surface as pictured in Figure 8. The underneath portion of the top is equipped with a rectangular security bar affixed perpendicular to the top and designed to fit into the tabs in the bottom portion to secure the stored daubers and personal items during transport.

The molded one-piece bottom consists of one rectangular piece with a flat surface containing twelve vertical cylindrical spikes placed in pairs in varying distances from the center to hold daubers and other items in place with six anchoring wells separated by rectangular tabs to fit securely against the security bar; the male portion of the locking device 10 and the offset lip is pictured in Figures 2, 8, and 11.

This caddy is designed to be manufactured using high impact colored plastic through injection molding. This process improves the quality of durability for high use, color for utility and appearance, lighter weight for portability and lower shipping costs, and lower production costs. The two-piece design of the caddy requires two molds to be manufactured. The hinge, the lock, and the handle are affixed during assembly. This caddy differs from other similar devices in that it requires no assembly on the part of the user, is lightweight for ease of use, provides for secure storage of devices and personal items, and provides an ergonomic surface for use in Bingo, reading, writing, and keyboarding/calculating.

Figure 1 is a top plane view of the top section of the Bingo Caddy.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the top section of the Bingo Caddy.

Figure 3 is a front view of the top section of the Bingo Caddy.

Figure 4 is a top plane view of the bottom section of the Bingo Caddy.

Figure 5 is a side view of the bottom section of the Bingo Caddy.

Figure 6 is a front view of the bottom section.

Figure 7 is a top plane view of the complete Bingo Caddy.

Figure 8 is a side elevational view of the complete Bingo Caddy.

Figure 9 is a front view of the complete Bingo Caddy.

Figure 10 is a back view of the complete Bingo Caddy.

Figure 11 is the complete view of the Bingo Caddy.

H. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is an improved, lightweight, portable, storage, organization, and functional device that improves earlier related devices and creates an ergonomic surface at a 15 degree angle that is suitable for reading, writing, and drawing and is especially suitable for the playing of Bingo. The device consists of a hinged top and bottom with an offset latch and lightweight handle.

In transporting and storing supplies and items, there are lock-in wells in the interior of the bottom section. In organizing and using the device, the top portion is sloped at a 15 degree angle to facilitate viewing and marking the sheets/cards, is large enough to hold multiple cards, and has wells on the upper portion of the top sized to accommodate supplies, beverages and personal items during use. The bottom portion is equipped with a lip that fits over the edge of a table or other flat surface and secures the device. The units can be manufactured to weigh less than 5 pounds and in colors.

The body of the device has a handle affixed to the exterior surface. The top and the bottom pieces interlock and are attached with a spring latch. The simple design eliminates the need for any assembly by the user and facilitates the manufacture and distribution of the product at a lower cost.